

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03893 250913Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00
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R 250821Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7998
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3893

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, IR, PINT
SUBJ: A SAUDI VIEW ON IRAN

REF: JIDDA 3003

1. WE WERE AMUSED TO NOTE HOW MUCH SAUDI MFA OFFICIAL AHMAD SIRAJ'S VIEWS ON IRAN ARE THE MIRROR IMAGE OF MANY IRANIAN VIEWS ON SAUDI ARABIA. IRANIANS SEE THE RELATIVE ABSENCE OF SOCIAL MODERNIZAON IN SAUDI ARABIA AS TROUBLE FOR THE FUTURE AND A CHALLENGE TO THE CONTINUED HEGEMONY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. MANY IRANIANS SEE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND TROUBLES AS GROWING PAINS IN TRANSITION TO WHAT THEY HOPE WILL BE A STRONGER SOCIETY. THEIR VIEWS ARE, OF COURSE, COLORED BY A REJECTION FOR THE MOST PART OF RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE IN THE DAILY AFFAIRS OF BUSINESS OR THE STATE, WITH THE SOMEWHAT SPECIAL VIEW OF SAUDI ARABIA THAT PRODUCES. MANY OF SIRAJ'S CRITICISMS ARE WELL TAKEN. THE SHAH, IS, TRYING TO SET THE STAGE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR AND CONTINUE TO BALANCE, CONCILIATE, CAJOLE, COOPT, AND, AS NECESSARY, PRESSURE THE DIVERGENT ELEMENTS OF THIS VERY COMPLEX COUNTRY SO THAT STABILITY CAN ACCOMPANY WRENCHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE. THERE ARE MANY UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE FUTURE, BUT IT WOULD APPEAR TO US
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ANY DISINTEGRATION OF IRAN INTO "CONGERIES OF SMALL STATES" WOULD BE A HIGHLY UNLIKELY EVENTUALITY. ON THAT POINT, AT LEAST, SIRAJ MIGHT BE REASSURED. IRAN AS A NATIONAL ENTITY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY ROCK ALONG IN BETTER TIMES AND WORSE.

3. WE HAVE INCLUDED JIDDA AS AN ADDRESSEE ON A COMPANION

CABLE IN WHICH WE COMMENT ON SOME BRITISH VIEWS OF IRAN.
JIDDA MAY WISH TO DRAW ON IT IN FUTURE CONVERSATION WITH
SIRAJ.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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